

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USPS-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06
L-03 /044 W

-----210545Z 106532 /11

R 201738Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3544

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

ALL OTHER CANADIAN CONSULS (BY POUCH)

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA

SUBJECT: POSTAL CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS COMMENCE BADLY

1. STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN POST OFFICE AND CANADIAN UNION OF POSTAL WORKERS (CUPW) ARE SERIOUSLY HAMPERING RENEWAL OF COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT EXPIRING JUNE 30. JUST PRIOR TO FIRST NEGOTIATING SESSION, MAY 19, CONSERVATIVE M.P. DINDSALE CALLED FOR SPECIAL JOINT HOUSE-SENATE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE POST OFFICE INEFFICIENCY INCLUDING "CHRONIC INEPTNESS" IN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS. NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY M.P. RODRIGUEZ SUPPORTED EARLIER REQUEST BY CUPW PRESIDENT DAVIDSON FOR ROYAL COMMISSION INQUIRY WHICH POSTMASTER GENERAL BLAIS CHARACTERIZED AS UNION POSTURING BUT WOULD RELUCTANTLY ACCEPT IF NEGOTIATIONS WERE SUSPENDED DURING COMMISSION HEARINGS. CUPW REJECTED THAT PRECONDITION.

2. MAY 19 NEGOTIATIONS WERE BROKEN OFF BY CUPW IN LESS THAN ONE HOUR WHEN MANAGEMENT MAINTAINED ITS PREROGATIVE TO DISTRIBUTE INFORMATION ON NEGOTIATING PROGRESS DIRECTLY TO EMPLOYEES WHILE REFUSING TO LET UNION DISTRIBUTE ITS
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BULLETINS DURING LUNCH AND REST PERIODS. CUPW WILL AWAIT RULING BY PUBLIC SERVICE STAFF RELATIONS BOARD ON DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE BEFORE RESUMING CONTRACT TALKS.

3. COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO CONTROVERSIAL KEY ISSUE OF CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO INTRODUCING TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES, AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER 1975 AGREEMENT BUT NEVER SATIS-

FACTORILY IMPLEMENTED, INEPTNESS OF POST OFFICE NEGOTIATORS
AND COMBATIVE STANCE BY UNION ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR STRAINED
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS THAT LED TO SEVEN-WEEK STRIKE IN 1975
AND IS POISONING ATMOSPHERE AGAIN IN CURRENT ROUND OF
NEGOTIATIONS. BARRING THE UNFORESEEN, SUCH AS WILDCAT
WORKSTOPPAGES (PRESSURE TACTICS USED BY INSIDE POSTAL
WORKERS IN THE PAST), CUPW LEADERSHIP UNLIKELY TO CALL
ILLEGAL STRIKE PRIOR TO JUNE 30 CONTRACT EXPIRATION.
EVEN AFTER STRIKE WOULD BE LEGAL, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT
STRIKE WOULD BE CALLED PRIOR TO CUPW JULY CONVENTION AT
WHICH CHIEF NEGOTIATOR, VICE PRESIDENT JEAN CLAUDE PARROT,
WILL LIKELY SUCCEED OUTGOING PRESIDENT JOE DAVIDSON.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, LABOR UNIONS, POSTAL SERVICE, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OTTAWA04128
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770181-0606
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770535/aaaabeiz.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ad1d408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2436441
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSTAL CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS COMMENCE BADLY
TAGS: ELAB, CA, CUPW, CANADIAN UNION OF POSTAL WORKERS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ad1d408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009